

Message Text

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00578 061114Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01
MCT-01 DHA-02 /095 W
-----061227Z 082262 /14

R 060912Z APR 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4369
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0578

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR XF IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQ GIVES FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HARDLINE POSITION ON
MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

REF: BAGHDAD 513

1. SUMMARY: IRAQI MEDIA KEEP UP ATTACK ON USG STATEMENTS
RE MIDDLE EAST. SOVIET UNION ALSO CRITICIZED. NATIONAL
COMMAND FIGURES SPEAK OUT. IRAQ MAINTAINS DISTANCE FROM
ARAFAT AND OTHER PALESTINIAN MODERATES BUT DOES NOT ATTACK
THEM OPENLY. GOI SEEMS UNDISTURBED BY ITS GROWING ISOLATION
ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE, AND TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION ARE
NOT THREATENED DESPITE DIFFERENCES OVER SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00578 061114Z

2. READERS OF BAATH PARTY DAILY AL-THAWRA HAVE RECENTLY
BEEN TREATED TO FOUR DAYS OF FRONTPAGE COMMENTARY UNDER
THE HEADLINE "ONCE AGAIN, CARTER'S DECLARATIONS." INA
SUMMARIES OF THE EDITORIALS ARE AVAILABLE IN FBIS.

2. A CAREFUL READING OF THE ORIGINAL ARTICLES DISCLOSES
NO HINT OF CHANGE IN GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD USG POSITION
ON MIDDLE EAST. EDITORIALS, WHICH ARE UNSIGNED AND HAVE
ALL THE MARKS OF OFFICIAL PARTY VIEWPOINT, REHASH LINE
THAT USG HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POLICY OF COMPLETE SUPPORT

FOR ISRAEL AGAINST ARAB STATES, THAT STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT ARE INTENDED TO GULL ARABS INTO MAKING CONCESSIONS AND THAT USG WILL IN THE END TURN ON "CAPITULATIONIST REGIMES" AND DEPRIVE THEM OF EVEN THE LIMITED AND DISHONORABLE SETTLEMENT THEY SEEK. ARTICLES ALSO ALLEGE THAT SOME ARAB LEADERS, IN PARTICULAR SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD, ARE IN COLLUSION WITH USG CONSPIRACY.

4. MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THIS SERIES IS IRAQI CRITICISM OF BREZHNEV STATEMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST. SILENT TREATMENT (REFTEL) APPARENTLY BECAME UNTENABLE GIVEN WIDESPREAD INTEREST AMONG POLITICALLY AWARE IRAQIS. AL-THAWRA IS CAREFUL TO PREFACE ITS REMARKS WITH NOTE THAT SOVIET UNION IS A PROGRESSIVE AND FRIENDLY COUNTRY, BUT PAPER CLEARLY STATES IRAQI OBJECTION TO ARAB RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, PERMANENT BORDERS, INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, AND PHASED RATHER THAN IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN JUNE 1967.

5. AL-THAWRA ANALYZES THE MOTIVATION BEHIND SOVIET POLICIES AS STEMMING FROM THE SOVIET GLOBAL OUTLOOK AND INTEREST IN NOT UPSETTING RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IT ALSO CRITICIZES SOVIET UNION FOR GIVING MORE WEIGHT TO VIEWS OF "SETTLEMENT REGIMES" THAN TO THE VIEWS OF "ARAB MASSES AND PROGRESSIVE REGIMES", A REFLECTION OF IRAQI BELIEF THAT LATTER WILL IN THE END PREVAIL
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00578 061114Z

WHILE LEADERS OF SETTLEMENT REGIMES WILL BE DEPOSED. THE DANGER OF THE SOVIET DECLARATIONS, ACCORDING TO AL-THAWRA, IS THAT EFFORTS WILL BE MADE BY THE SETTLEMENT REGIMES TO RECONCILE THE SOVIET AND U.S. POSITIONS. IMPOSITION OF A JOINT U.S.-SOVIET FORMULA, THE ARTICLE MAINTAINS, WOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND HARM ARAB-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP.

6. TIMING OF BREZHNEV STATEMENTS PROVED AWKWARD FOR IRAQ, SINCE SPEECH WAS FOLLOWED A FEW DAYS LATER BY ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRAQ AND ARRIVAL OF A SOVIET DELEGATION FOR MEETING OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE CPI ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, REGIONAL COMMAND MEMBER NAIM HADDAD WARNED AGAINST "DEVIATIONIST TRENDS WHICH PREACH THE NEED TO ACCEPT A FAIT ACCOMPLI IN THE ARAB REGION." THE SPEECH OF CPI FIRST SECRETARY AZIZ MUHAMMAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED SIGNIFICANT REFERENCES TO ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE AND CONCENTRATED ON SAFER THEMES, SUCH AS THE ROLE OF ARAB REACTIONARIES AND THE SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON. EGYPTIAN DIPLOMAT COMPLETING LONG TOUR IN IRAQ HAS EXPRESSED GRUDGING ADMIRATION OF WAY IRAQIS AND SOVIETS ARE MANAGING THEIR QUARREL. HE CONCLUDES THAT IRAQ RECOGNIZES THAT IT CANNOT INFLUENCE POLICY OF A MAJOR

POWER TOWARD THE WHOLE AREA BUT HAS DECIDED THAT MEASURED CRITICISM OF SOVIET POLICY WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE FLOW OF SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE. SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN EMBASSIES HAVE ALSO TOLD US THAT SOVIET-IRAQI BILATERAL RELATIONS WILL NOT BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED.

7. GOI HAS ALSO BEEN AT PAINS TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM ARAFAT AND OTHER PLO MODERATES. IN A QUOTED OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN FOR ARAB LIBERATION FRONT (IRAQI CONTROLLED PALESTINIAN GROUP) AS STRESSING THAT ALF PARTICIPATION IN PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DOES NOT IMPLY ANY RETREAT FROM REJECTION OF A CAPITULATIONIST SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BAGHDA 00578 061114Z

PALESTINE QUESTION. THE STATEMENT ADDED THAT ALF DID NOT WHOLLY ACCEPT PLO'S "RECENT POLITICAL MANIFESTO WHICH FAILED TO DENOUNCE THE SYRIAN AND JORDANIAN REGIMES FOR THEIR CRIMES AGAINST THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION AND TO REJECT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE". BAATH PARTY FOUNDER AND NATIONAL COMMAND SYG MICHEL AFLAQ HAS ALSO PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE IN AFAQ ARABIYA, A BAGHDAD MAGAZINE, WARNING THAT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE SHOULD NOT EXCUSE ITSELF WITH PRETEXT THAT DEFEATIST ARAB REGIMES WERE SEEKING A SETTLEMENT. "IF THE RESISTANCE ITSELF IS NOT CONVINCED OF THE SETTLEMENT, LET IT CLARIFY ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE MASSES." NONETHELESS, HOWEVER UNEASY GOI MAY BE AT SIGNS OF PLO MODERATION, IRAQI MEDIA ARE NOT ATTACKING ARAFAT OR OTHERS PERSONALLY AND ANY CRITICISM OF MAINLINE PALESTINIAN LEADERS DOES NOT COMPARE TO HARSH TREATMENT AIMED AT CONFRONTATION REGIMES AND SAUDI ARABIA.

8. SYRIA AND THE U.S. REMAIN THE FAVORITE WHIPPING BOYS OF LOCAL MEDIA AND BAATH PARTY SPOKESMEN. NATIONAL COMMAND ASSISTANT SYG SHIBLI AYSAMI GAVE SPEECH AT JUMBLATT MEMORIAL SERVICE ON MARCH 27 WHICH REFLECTED POPULAR VIEW THAT SYRIANS WERE BEHIND ASSASSINATION. AYSAMI CONCLUDED, "WE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE SERIES OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS WHICH TOOK THE LIVES OF JUMBLATT AND A NUMBER OF PATRIOTIC LEADERS ARE BUT ONE OF THE MEANS EXECUTED BY THE NON-SECRET ALLIANCE BETWEEN ZIONISM, IMPERIALISM, REACTION AND ARAB CAPITULATIONIST REGIMES, WITH THE AIM OF TERRORISING AND WEAKENING THE PATRIOTIC AND PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. FROM HERE THE PATRIOTIC FORCES THROUGHOUT THE ARAB NATION SHOULD ALL MARCH FORWARD ON PATHWAY OF A UNIFIED STRUGGLE, FACING WITH STEADFASTNESS AND STRENGTH THE EVIL ALLIANCE LED BY THE UNITED STATES".

9.COMMENT: IRAQI LEADERS APPEAR UNSWAYED BY MOUNTING CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 BAGHDA 00578 061114Z

EVIDENCE OF THEIR ISOLATION ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE. THEY SEEM CONFIDENT, PERHAPS NAIVELY SO, THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN REGION WILL EVENTUALLY MOVE THEIR WAY AS THE "MASSES" REJECT THE POLICIES OF THEIR LEADERS. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE ARAB "MASSES" WILL THEN CREDIT THEM WITH HAVING ADHERED TO SOUND PRINCIPLES IN FACE OF SETTLEMENT EFFORTS PURSUED BY CONFRONTATION STATES AND BIG POWERS. WE BELIEVE THAT IRAQ AND SOVIET UNION HAVE GOOD CHANGE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS WHILE AGREEING TO DISAGREE ON MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE. AS REPORTED SEPTEL, SOVIET UNION IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE AS PRIMARY ARMS SUPPLIER TO IRAQ, AND MEETINGS OF SOVIET-IRAQI JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON SCHEDULE DESPITE THE UNUSUAL CRITICISM OF SOVIET POLICIES BEING VOICED BY AL-THAWRA.
WILEY

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BAGHDA00578
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770119-1219
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704103/baaaewfu.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 69283e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BAGHDAD 513
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2669361
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQ GIVES FURTHER EVIDENCE OF HARDLINE POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, XF, IZ
To: STATE INFO AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/69283e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009